

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 06074 171628Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-08 DHA-05 IO-13 (ISO) W

-----072798 180348Z /12

R 171530Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7713

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 6074

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JM, CU

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION BOYCOTTING CASTRO VISIT; MANLEY DEPLORES
DECISION

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 6065

1. THE OPPOSITION JAMAICA LABOR PARTY (JLP) RESPONDED TO THE OCTOBER 14 ANNOUNCEMENT OF CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO'S IMMINENT STATE VISIT TO JAMAICA WHEN IT DECLARED ON OCTOBER 15 ITS INTENTION TO BOYCOTT ALL CEREMONIES AND FUNCTIONS SURROUNDING THE VISIT. JLP MEMBERS WERE, ACCORDINGLY, ABSENT AT THE CUBAN PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL AND AT THE CEREMONY AT KINGS HOUSE WHEN CASTRO WAS INVESTED WITH THE ORDER OF JAMAICA (SEE SEPTTEL FOR PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY'S REMARKS ON THAT OCCASION).

2. IN ITS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BOYCOTT, ISSUED OVER THE SIGNATURE OF PARTY CHAIRMAN FRANK PHIPPS, THE JLP MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINGST 06074 171628Z

-- THE GOVERNMENT ASSERTS THAT ITS FINANCIAL POSITION MAKES IT UNABLE TO "AFFORD THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE JAMAICA WORKERS" (I.E., MEET WAGE DEMANDS). NEVERTHELESS, IT CAN BEAR THE BURDEN OF TWO STATE VISITS WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

-- PUBLIC FUNDS WILL BE IMPROPERLY USED TO STAGE A MASS RALLY

BENEFITTING THE RULING PARTY AT WHICH A COMMUNIST LEADER--
CASTRO WILL BE THE CHIEF SPEAKER.

-- JAMAICA IS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEMS.
NEVERTHELESS, THE GOVERNMENT MUST USE "...ITS LIMITED FORCES...
TO PROTECT A MAN WHOSE VERY PRESENCE, ON THE ADMISSION OF THE
PRIME MINISTER, EXPOSES DR. CASTRO HIMSELF, THE COUNTRY
AND THE JAMAICAN PEOPLE TO GRAVE SECURITY RISKS, AND
POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL EMBARRASSMENT."

-- AT A TIME WHEN JAMAICANS ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE
PRESERVATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THEY ARE "ASKED TO WELCOME
A MAN WHO ON HIS OWN ADMISSION HAS UP TO 3,000 POLITICAL
PRISONERS IN CUSTODY."

-- THE JLP "WILL NOT BE ASSOCIATED WITH MISTIMED AND ILL-
CONCEIVED STATE VISIT OF THE COMMUNIST DICTATOR", "...A MAN WHOSE
RECORD WAS ONE OF INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF
JAMAICA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, AND WHO PREACHES THROUGHOUT THIS
HEMISPHERE SUBVERSION AND REVOLUTION." THE VISIT IS AN INSULT
"...WHEN IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF
JAMAICA FEEL A DEEP ABHORRENCE AND A PROFOUND DISTRUST OF
COMMUNISM IN ANY FORM."

THE JLP STATEMENT ALSO NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD
FAILED TO INFORM THE OPPOSITION PARTY OF THE VISIT UNTIL AN
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINGST 06074 171628Z

HOOR AFTER IT HAD BEEN PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED AND THAT THE VISIT
COINCIDED WITH THE ABSENCE FROM THE ISLAND OF THE OPPOSITION
LEADER, EDWARD SEAGA.

3. PRIME MINISTER MANLEY REPLIED QUICKLY TO THE JLP AN-
NOUNCEMENT WITH A STATEMENT IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED REGRET
OVER THE DECISION TO BOYCOTT THE VISIT. HE NOTED THAT:

-- THE JLP HAS CHOSEN "TO INSULT ONE OF THE GREATEST LEADERS
OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY."

-- THE JLP WAS INFORMED OF THE VISIT "ON THE SAME AFTERNOON"
AS THE EXECUTIVE OF THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP)
AND THE PUBLIC.

"...THE ONLY REASON FOR THE LATE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS CONSIDERATIONS
ABOUT SECURITY.

-- "SURELY THE JLP MUST KNOW THAT WITH OUR PROXIMITY TO THE
MIAMI-BASED CUBAN TERRORISTS WHO ARE OPENLY HOSTILE TO
PRESIDENT CASTRO AND THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT, SECURITY MUST BE OUR
PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATION." THE OCTOBER, 1976 SABOTAGE OF AN

AIR CUBAN FLIGHT IS EVIDENCE OF THIS DANGER.

-- THE DECISION OF THE JLP "PLACES THEM CLEARLY IN THE CAMP OF THE REACTIONARY ELEMENTS IN THE THIRD WORLD WHO PLAY NO PART IN THE STRUGGLE FOR INTERNATIONAL INJUSTICE (SIC)."

4. COMMENT: THE CASTRO VISIT, COMING AS IT DOES IMMEDIATELY ON THE HEELS OF THE VISIT OF MOZAMBIQUE PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL, IN UNSURPRISINGLY VEXATIOUS TO THE JLP WHICH IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN EFFORTS TO MOBILIZE OPINION AGAINST THE PNP-LED GOVERNMENT. THE MASS RALLY IN THE NATIONAL ARENA DURING THE MACHEL VISIT, WITH ITS RINGING ENDORSEMENT OF THE PNP AND ITS IMPLICIT IDENTIFICATION OF THE JLP WITH REACTIONARY ELEMENTS (SEE KINGSTON 6060), WAS SEEN BY
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PAGE 04 KINGST 06074 171628Z

THE OPPOSITION PARTY (AND MANY OTHERS HERE) AS INTERFERENCE IN JAMAICA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE AGAINST THE OPPOSITION.
IRVING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: OPPOSITION PARTIES, BOYCOTTS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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From: KINGSTON
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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, OVIP, JM, CU, JLP, (CASTRO RUZ, FIDEL)
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